

## Listing of Claims.

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended)      The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 8-1, wherein said storage member includes a substantially rectangular storage compartment.
3. (Currently amended)      The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 8-1, wherein said storage member includes a first substantially circular storage compartment having a side wall and bottom.
4. (Currently amended)      The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 3, wherein said storage member includes a second substantially circular storage compartment.
5. (Previously presented)      The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 4, wherein said storage member includes a substantially rectangular storage compartment.
6. (Currently amended)      The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 8-1, wherein said storage member includes an open utility surface.
7. (Currently amended)      A multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities, including:  
a base member having a bottom side and side member extending upward from said  
bottom side;  
a storage member pivotally connected to said side member to enable said storage member  
to have at least a limited range of movement with respect to said base member and to permit a

range of inclined positions respectively between said base member and said storage member; and  
means interconnecting said base member and said storage member for adjusting said  
storage member in a selectable fixed incline position with respect to said base. The  
~~multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 1~~, wherein said storage  
 member includes a hook extending upward from said storage member for retaining a  
 conventional roller paint tray atop of said storage member in a manner to permit use thereof.

8. (Currently amended) A multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities, including:

a base member having a bottom side and side member extending upward from said  
bottom side;

a storage member pivotally connected to said side member to enable said storage member  
to have at least a limited range of movement with respect to said base member and to permit a  
range of inclined positions respectively between said base member and said storage member; and

means interconnecting said base member and said storage member for adjusting said  
storage member in a selectable fixed incline position with respect to said base. The  
~~multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 1~~, wherein said ~~maintaining~~  
adjusting means includes a movable flange and slotted surface which operably interconnect said  
 storage member and said base member such that said flange removably seats in a slot of said  
 slotted surface to set ~~maintain~~ a selected incline between said base member and said storage  
 member.

9. (Currently amended)      The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of  
 claim 8-1, which includes a handle connected to said side member.

10. (Currently amended)      The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of

claim 8-1, which includes a pair of opposing side members.

11. (Currently amended) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 13 10, ~~wherein said first handle and said second handle are~~ which includes a first generally U-shaped handle having a transverse member and two opposing parallel side arms extending therefrom in a first direction, wherein each said side arm is pivotally connected to one said side member.

12. (Currently amended) A multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities, including:

a base member having a bottom side and side member extending upward from said bottom side;

a storage member pivotally connected to said side member to enable said storage member to have at least a limited range of movement with respect to said base member and to permit a range of inclined positions respectively between said base member and said storage member; and

means interconnecting said base member and said storage member for adjusting said storage member in a selectable fixed incline position with respect to said base, a first handle having a transverse member and two opposing parallel side arms extending therefrom in a first direction, wherein each said side arm is pivotally connected to one said side member. ~~The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 11, wherein said transverse member includes a hooked arm extending therefrom in another direction from said first direction to enable said receptacle to hang from a rung of a ladder.~~

13. (Currently amended) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 12 11, which includes a second ~~generally U-shaped~~ handle having a transverse member and

two opposing parallel side arms extending therefrom in a common direction, wherein each said side arm is pivotally connected to one said side member.

14. (Currently amended) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 13, wherein said transverse member of said first ~~U-shaped~~ handle includes a retaining hook extending therefrom which is configured to removably retain said second ~~U-shaped~~ handle.

15. (Currently amended) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 14, wherein said transverse member of said first handle includes a hooked arm extending therefrom in another direction from said first direction to enable said receptacle to hang from a rung of a ladder.

16. (Currently amended) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 14, wherein said retaining hook is configured to removably retain said transverse member of said second ~~U-shaped~~ handle.

17. (Currently amended) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim ~~8-1~~, wherein said storage member includes a tab to seat on a rung of a ladder and aid in support thereof.

18. (New) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 7, which includes a first handle having a transverse member and two opposing parallel side arms extending therefrom in a first direction, wherein each said side arm is pivotally connected to one said side member.

19. (New) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 18, wherein said transverse member includes a hooked arm extending therefrom in another direction from said first direction to enable said receptacle to hang from a rung of a ladder.

20. (New) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 19, which includes a second handle having a transverse member and two opposing parallel side arms extending therefrom in a common direction, wherein each said side arm is pivotally connected to one said side member.

21. (New) The multifunctional receptacle with load-leveling capabilities of claim 20, wherein said transverse member of said first handle includes a retaining hook extending therefrom which is configured to removably retain said second handle and wherein said transverse member of said first handle includes a hooked arm extending therefrom in another direction from said first direction to enable said receptacle to hang from a rung of a ladder.